16. Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

M|s. Paramount engineering works Lucknow

1549. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have inquired into the working of M|s. Paramount Engineering Works, Lucknow during the last five Years;

(b) whether it is a fact that this company cornered crores of rupees by selling the costly imported material in the black market and then evaded the actual verification with the connivance of Estate Industries Department and the Chief Controller Imports & Exports on the plea that the records have been destroyed or lost;

(c) what is the value of licences that were issued to this firm during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) on what basis these licences were issued; and

(e) whether the above firm also evaded Sales tax and Income tax amounting to crores of rupees and if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The unit had obtained import licences and release orders during the period AM-65-66 to AM-71-72 amounting to Rs. 83.28, 040|-.

On the allegation that they were non-existent and bogus unit and had obtained the licences and release orders of values Higher their entitlements and had misutilised the imported materials, investigations were carried out and action was taken under Clause 8 of the Imports (Control) Order, 1955. The firm were debarred from receiving import licences and allotment of goods through canalising agencies for 10 licensing periods from AM 74 to AM-83.

The case was also handed over to CBI for investigations. On the basis of CBI's findings that the firm and their partners had entered into criminal conspiracy in obtaining the licences and delivery of materials from MMTC. A criminal complaint was filed in the Court of Additional Chief Judicial Megistrate| Special Magistrate (SPE cases) Lucknow. The final outcome of the case is not known.

(e) Information about the evasion of sales tax and income tax is not available with this ministry.

Benami Accounts in Banks

1550. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of persons opened their accounts in banks ni Benami and wrong addresses in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) wheher it is also a fact that most of the accounts were opened with black money;

(c) whether any letter has been received by the Finance Minister in this regard in August, 1985;

(d) whether Government propse to take any steps to ensure that as soon as the account with more than Rs. 50,000 is opened. Income Tax authorities are informed by the concerned banks which will help the authorities to curb black money; and

(e) if not, what alternative action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) As per information readily available, 20 bank accounts opened in Hyderabad in the names of the persons who appear to be fictitious have come to the notice of the Income Tax Department. Appropriate action under Direct Taxes Acts is underway. It would not be feasible at this stage to say whether the source of these deposits was legal or not.

(c) Yes, Sir.